

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

RECOMMENDATIONS

ON RECYCLING COMPUTERS COMPUTER PERIPHERALS AND TELEVISIONS

Investigate the nature and scope of electronic waste in Wisconsin

The Council recommends a study, to be done by the DNR and SHWEC, to answer at least the following questions:

- A. Volume of computers, computer peripherals and televisions
 - a. How much is in storage?
 - b. How much is disposed of annually?
 - c. How much is purchased annually through large and small retailers and through internet sales?
 - d. Trends in purchasing practices.
- B. Infrastructure capacity
 - a. What is the capacity of the infrastructure now?
 - b. What is the capacity of the private sector to grow?
 - c. How much is handled through communities/municipal programs, BSI, and what are the costs associated with this program?
- C. Service
 - a. Who is being serviced now?
 - b. How convenient is service?
 - c. How costly is service?
 - d. Would a state recycling contract be feasible?
- D. Current practices
- E. Determine the level of awareness of current law

If the study cannot be done using existing funds, or if a broader study is warranted, then the Council suggests that an application for a grant from the U.S. EPA in FY 2003

This study should be done regardless of whether or not the rest of the recommendations are followed.

1) Support for the National Electronic Product Stewardship Institute (NEPSI)

The Council on Recycling goes on record to support the National Electronics Product Stewardship Institute and urges all members of that process to continue to work towards a comprehensive solution for the minimization of the environmental impact of computers, TVs and other electronic equipment, including the extraction of resources and the manufacture, use and disposition of these products.

2) Develop state procurement guidelines

Work with the Department of Administration to develop guidelines for the procurement or leasing of environmentally preferable computers, computer peripherals and televisions.

Require recycled plastic/glass/other material content
Require "design for environment"

3) Divert computers, computer peripherals and televisions from landfills in Wisconsin

The Council on Recycling recommends that the State of Wisconsin direct the DNR and Commerce, with oversight from the Council on Recycling, and working in cooperation with other states, to develop a system to divert computers, computer peripherals and televisions from landfills. The financing of the system should be incorporated into the price of the product, and not incurred by local units of government or taxpayers. Reports should be directed to the appropriate legislative committees.

4) A ban on landfilling computers, computer peripherals and televisions in Wisconsin

Enact a landfill and incineration ban on computers, computer peripherals and televisions. There would be no exceptions to this ban. The ban would be phased in to allow for an educational process and infrastructure development. The phase in period would begin two years after the effective date of the legislation.

5) Certification program

A voluntary certification program be established for electronics processors and handlers. The program would seek to have destination facilities certified by a program approved by the DNR (such as the International Association of Electronics Recyclers or ISO 14001). Handlers would be asked to voluntarily follow a checklist developed by the DNR. After three years the program would be reviewed. The objective is to have all of the destination facilities and 50% of the handlers certified by that time. The DNR would only seek administrative rule to require certification if the objectives were not met.